

To Our Visitors

The State House Visitors' Center is open every day except Christmas Day. Free tours are given by the State House guides on request at the State House Visitors' Center on the main floor of the State House. For group reservations, please call 410.974.3400 or email at shvisitorscenter@mdsa.net

For more information about the State House, please visit our Web site at: <http://www.msa.md.gov/msa/mdstatehouse/html/visitor.html>

While new interpretative exhibits for the State House are being planned, you can see an exhibit about the State House and historical events that took place here in the Casper R. Taylor, Jr. House Office Building at 6 Bladen Street.

In the Thomas V. Mike Miller, Jr. Senate Building, at 9 Bladen Street, there are also historical exhibits, including "Treasures from the Maryland State Archives" on the first floor. There are also other, changing exhibits throughout the building.



Photographs of State House and Dome by Jay Baker, Governor's Press Office.

MARYLAND STATE HOUSE FACTS

- ◆ Capitol of the United States, November 1783 – August 1784
- ◆ America's first peacetime capitol
- ◆ Oldest state house in America still in continuous legislative use
- ◆ Declared a National Historic Landmark in 1960, the first state house in the nation to be given such designation

18th Century Building

- ◆ Date of construction: 1772 – 1779
- ◆ Architect: Joseph Horatio Anderson
- ◆ Builder: Charles Wallace
- ◆ Square footage: 120,900 square feet
- ◆ Height of dome, exterior to weather vane: 181 feet
- ◆ Height of dome, interior: 113 feet

20th Century Annex

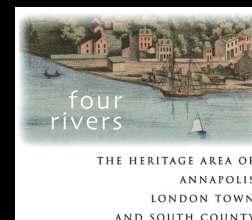
- ◆ Date of construction: 1902 – 1905
- ◆ Architect: Baldwin and Pennington

THE DOME

When the State House was first completed, it had a leaky copper roof and a cupola that was thought by many to be too small for the building. In 1784, work was begun on a new roof and a larger dome, the one that is such a distinctive part of the Annapolis skyline to this day. The architect for the new dome was Joseph Clark who may have gotten his inspiration from a tower in Karlsruhe Germany. The exterior of the new dome was completed by 1787 but it took almost another 10 years for the interior, with its beautiful plasterwork, to be finished.

THE OLD TREASURY BUILDING

The Old Treasury Building on State Circle was built in 1735-36 as a treasury for the Commissioners for Emitting Bills of Credit. It is the oldest public building in Annapolis and is currently undergoing extensive historical investigation and restoration work. When the work is complete, the building will be open to the public with exhibits relating to early Maryland history, including the first capital at Historic St. Mary's City.



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Martin O'Malley, Governor
Anthony G. Brown, Lt. Governor
Dr. Edward C. Papenfuse, State Archivist

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The Maryland State House

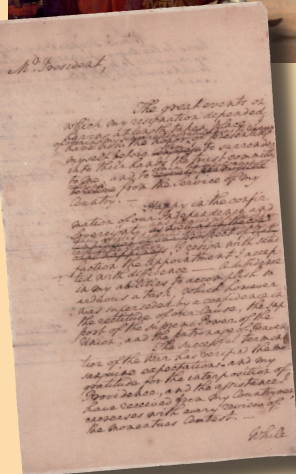
THE HEART OF MARYLAND
HISTORY & GOVERNMENT

The Maryland State House is the third state house to be built on State Circle. It was begun in 1772 and first used in 1779. The architect was Joseph Horatio Anderson and the builder was Charles Wallace.

AMERICA’S FIRST PEACETIME CAPITOL

The Maryland State House was the first peacetime capitol of the United States. The Continental Congress met there from November 1783 until August 1784. On December 23, 1783, General George Washington came before Congress to resign his commission as commander-in-chief of the Continental Army, thus setting a precedent of the authority of the civilian government over the military that remains at the foundation of American government to this day.

Two weeks later, on January 14, 1784, Congress ratified the Treaty of Paris, officially ending the Revolutionary War.



Washington Resigning His Commission by Edwin White, 1858

In 2007, the state of Maryland purchased Washington’s personal copy of his resignation speech and it will be on display in the State House when the new exhibits are installed.

THE OLD SENATE CHAMBER

When the Continental Congress met in this historic chamber, one of the delegates wrote to a colleague that “The room we are to sit in is perhaps the prettiest in America.” Since that time, the chamber has undergone many changes and much evidence of its original appearance during these historic events has been lost to history. However, recent investigations by preservation experts have uncovered evidence – or “ghosts” – of 18th and 19th century decorative elements, including window and door trim, and wainscoting.

At this time, the 18th century brick and some of the ghosts of previous decorative trim in the room are exposed and visitors are welcome to come into the room to view the 18th century building materials. Scholars are reviewing the results of the investigative work to decide how the room should be restored and interpreted. It will probably take another 2 – 3 years for the room to be restored to its 18th century appearance.

THE SENATE COMMITTEE ROOM AND THE STAIRWELL ROOM

These two rooms are also part of the 18th century State House. The Stairwell Room has two staircases: one to the Ladies’ Balcony (not open to the public) and one that used to go up to the second floor.

THE ARCHIVES ROOM

This room was originally used for storage of Chancery Court records and in 1838 was made into a fireproof room with a brick floor for the safe keeping of the permanent records of the state.

THE ROTUNDA

The ship on display in the Rotunda is the Maryland *Federalist*, a replica of a parade ship built in Baltimore in 1788 to celebrate Maryland’s ratification of the United States Constitution. This ship was built in 1988 to celebrate the bicentennial of the Constitution. It is the same size as the original and displays symbols of Maryland, including the leaves of the white oak and the Black-Eyed Susan. Its seven sails denote that Maryland was the seventh state to ratify.

THE STATE HOUSE IN THE 19TH CENTURY

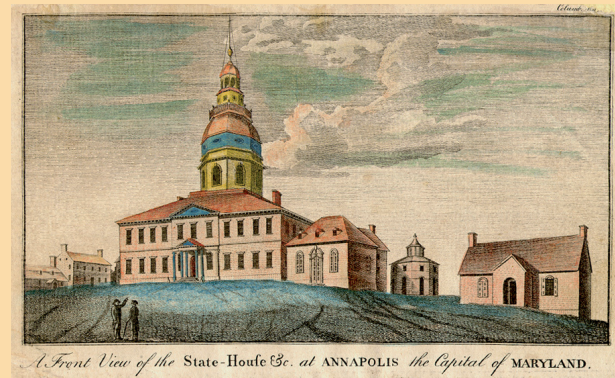
Until 1905, the two rooms once known as the Calvert and Silver Rooms were the home of the House of Delegates which was decorated in a high Victorian style. Work is now underway to re-create this 19th century space in order to provide a place for interpretation of the events of the 19th century, as well as a space that can be used for public events and functions.

THE TWENTIETH CENTURY ANNEX

By the turn of the 20th century, the State House needed major repairs, updating and expanding. The Baltimore architectural firm of Baldwin and Pennington was hired to design and carry out the changes. It was decided to remove two 19th century additions and replace them with one large annex.

This work was completed in 1905 and both of the Senate and the House of Delegates moved into their grand, marble lined chambers and suites that included offices for the president and the speaker and retiring lounges for the members. Galleries for the public and the press were provided, and the unusual marble for both chambers was chosen to reflect the red and gold of the Maryland state flag. The skylights are all by Tiffany & Company.

A black marble line in the floor of the Rotunda marks the dividing line between the “old” and the “new” State Houses.



The Maryland State House in 1788 by Charles Willson Peale.

THE SENATE CHAMBER

The Senate Chamber features portraits of Maryland’s Four Signers of the Declaration of Independence (Clockwise around the room): **William Paca** (1740-1799) by John Beale Bordley, 1836. **Thomas Stone** (1743-1787) by John Beale Bordley, 1836. **Charles Carroll of Carrollton**, (1737-1832), by Thomas Sully, 1834. Carroll was the only Roman Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence. **Samuel Chase** (1741-1811) by John Beale Bordley, 1836.

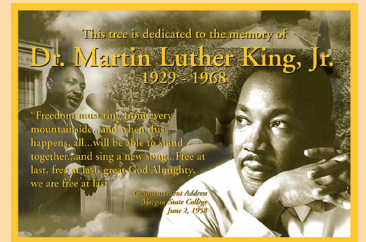
THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES CHAMBER

Around the room are portraits of former speakers of the House of Delegates, arranged in chronological order, beginning at the right of the speaker’s rostrum.

STATE HOUSE MEMORIALS

There are many memorials and plaques in the State House and on the grounds. Most notable is one honoring **Matthew Henson**, an African American explorer who was first man to reach the North Pole during the 1909 Arctic Expedition of Admiral Robert Edwin Peary. This plaque is in the Rotunda near the Archives Room.

On the grounds is a memorial tree honoring the **Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr.** It was planted on January 12, 1984 in commemoration of Dr. King’s birthday and rededicated on February 28, 2007 with a new plaque.



On Lawyers’ Mall is a memorial to **Thurgood Marshall** designed and created by Toby Mendez which features a statue of Marshall as a young lawyer and three other statues representing legal milestones in Marshall’s long career as a civil rights lawyer. One is of Donald Gaines Murray, the first African American to be admitted to the University of Maryland School of Law, and the other two are school children representative of *Brown vs. the Board of Education*.